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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/878,193	06/12/2001	Yuji Sato	0717-0469P	1968
2292	7590	11/30/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			FATAHI YAR, MAHMOUD	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2674	

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/878,193

Applicant(s)

SATO ET AL.

Examiner

Mike Fatahiyar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10, 13, 16, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 2 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 2, lines 3-4, the recitation "based on a supply voltage level of the host device" is vague and indefinite and thus incomplete because it is not clear whether this supply voltage level is exchanged with the display device. It is suggested that at line 3, "of" should be replaced with "exchanged between the at least one display device and" in order to rectify the noted problem.

In claim 20, lines 3-4, the recitation "to distinguish an off state of the host and the absence of a signal from the host device" is vague and indefinite because it is not clear to what it refers. In light of the page 8 of the specification, it appears that the term "synchronization" should be inserted right before the term "signal" in order to rectify the noted problem. Correction and/or clarification is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 10, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Solhjell et al(5,375,245).

Solhjell et al disclose an image display system comprising at least one display device(3) connected to a host device(1) wherein an image is displayed on the at least one display device in accordance with an image signal which is output from the host device; and the at least one display device monitors a state of coupling with the host device(based on absence or presence of synchronization pulses(4)).

As to the claims 13 and 16, Solhjell et al also teach that when the state of coupling with the host is canceled(i.e., in the absence of synchronization signals), each of the at least one display device independently administers power management thereof based on a prescribed setting(column 4, lines 14-68; column 5, lines 1-18; figure 5).

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Solhjell et al in view of Mitchell et al(5,987,614).

Solhjell et al is discussed above. Mitchell et al is cited to show that the broad concept of providing power saving feature for an LCD display device is old(see figure 14). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the CRT monitor(3) of Solhjell with an LCD display device, as

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evidenced by Mitchell et al, because both references are directed to power saving for a display device and further because Solhjell et al, at column 7, lines 6-22, teach that their system is capable of working with digital circuitry as opposed to analog CRT circuitry. Furthermore, substitution of one type of display device for another specific type of a display device is considered to be an equivalent alternative substitution, which is a matter of arbitrary design decision, well within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art.

6. Claims 4-9, 11-12, 14-15, 17 and 18 are allowed.

7. Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 10, 13, 16 and 19-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It should be noted that the independent claims 1 and 10, do not specify or require that the at least one display device monitors the state of coupling with the host device based on a data-enable signal or a data transfer clock signal which is considered as the crux of the present invention. Thus, these two claims still read on the primary reference to Solhjel et al(5,375,245).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Fatahiyar whose telephone number is (571)272-7688. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard, can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF
M. Fatahiyar

November 27, 2005

Xiao Wu
XIAO WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER